

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method to reserve a user's personal time in an electronic schedule of the user, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 recording at least one amount of the personal time; and
storing at least one respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of the personal time is reserved,
wherein each of the at least one amount of the personal time is less than the respective interval of time.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an electronic inquiry about the user's availability for a booking;
determining or indicating whether the at least one amount of personal
15 time can fit within the at least one respective interval in order to accommodate the booking without causing a scheduling conflict.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of providing the user with an option whether or not to accept the booking, in case of a positive determination or
20 indication that the personal time can fit.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of automatically making the booking, in case of a positive determination or indication that the personal time can fit.
- 25 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of sending a user availability message in response to the electronic inquiry, in case of a positive determination or indication that the personal time can fit.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step providing the user with a conflict notification and an option whether or not to accept the booking, in case of a negative determination or indication that the personal time cannot fit.
- 5 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one respective interval of time represents the user's midday, workday, work week, or any user definable period.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one amount of the personal time is given as a percentage of the respective interval of time.
- 10 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one amount of the personal time is given as a particular continuous or non-continuous duration.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of reserving at least one
15 fixed block of the personal time.
11. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of comparing a booking type to a type of the personal time, and if consistent then the scheduling conflict will not occur.
- 20 12. The method of claim 2, wherein the electronic inquiry indicates at least one amount of booking time, and at least one respective booking interval that is greater than or equal to the booking time.
- 25 13. The method of claim 5, wherein the user availability message includes a question as to whether the availability should be confirmed by consulting the user.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein there is a positive determination or indication that the personal time can fit, and the booking is made by booking both the booking time as well as the respective booking interval which is greater than the booking time.

- 5 15. The method of claim 14, wherein a further reservation effectively causes a contraction of the booking interval.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying the amount of the personal time and the respective interval of time on a shared or individual calendar.

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17. A computer-readable medium or media for use in a terminal, the medium or media being encoded with at least part of a data structure for performing the method of claim 1.

- 15 18. A device for reserving a user's personal time in an electronic schedule of the user, comprising:

a personal time recorder, responsive to a personal time signal from the user, for recording at least one amount of the personal time;

- 20 an interval storage unit, responsive to an interval signal from the user, for storing at least one respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of personal time is reserved; and

a user calendar database, for integrating data from the personal time recorder and the interval storage unit into the electronic schedule.

- 25 19. The device of claim 18, further comprising an error check unit for notifying the user if the amount of the personal time is more than the respective interval, or if the personal time and the respective interval cause any conflict with scheduling information already integrated into the user calendar database.

20. The device of claim 18, wherein the device is a mobile or fixed terminal that interacts directly with the user.
21. The device of claim 18, wherein the device is a server located remotely from a user terminal.
22. The device of claim 18, further comprising an inquiry processing unit, responsive to an inquiry signal, for accessing the user calendar database in order for the device to provide an availability indicator signal indicative of whether the at least one amount of personal time can fit within the at least one respective interval so as to accommodate a booking without any scheduling conflict.
23. A system for reserving a user's personal time in an electronic schedule of the user, comprising:
- a user terminal, responsive to user input, for providing a personal time and interval signal indicative of at least one amount of personal time and a respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of personal time is reserved;
 - a user scheduling device, responsive to the personal time and interval signal, for providing a booking availability signal indicative of whether the at least one amount of personal time can be situated so that a booking fits into the electronic schedule; and
 - an inquiring terminal, responsive to the booking availability signal, for indicating to an operator of the inquiring terminal whether the at least one amount of personal time can be situated within the interval so that a booking fits into the electronic schedule.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein the user scheduling device also is for performing at least some scheduling for the operator of the inquiring terminal.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the user scheduling device produces a superposition of calendars corresponding to the user of the user terminal and the operator of the inquiring terminal.
- 5 26. The system of claim 23, wherein the user scheduling device is located in or with the user terminal.